

I have been upset with our local ABC station owned by Sinclair for quite some time. They have destroyed the local news programming that I watched daily, especially early morning news before Good Morning America. They have in fact turned the news into a cheap radio show with more gossip and call in junk for free tickets than the local news, weather, and traffic wanted by early morning viewers. Then came the position on Nightline. I have at this point told ABC that I no longer view GMA and my viewing of Nightline is to keep Sinclair aware that the public wants this program as much as they try to destroy it.

What they are attempting to do now with this documentary which is highly disputed as not honest journalism looking objectively at all sides of this issue is now just too much for me to accept. I represent hundreds within an online group - both Republicans and Democrats who enjoy discussion of the news. We live around the country and were equally shocked at this planned viewing. These are our airways which Sinclair has been entrusted to serve us with fairness and honesty. This is not about John Kerry, the elections, or public need-to-know, but about Sinclair's use of the airways to serve its own political purposes and receive favors from the government. It is a massive effort to abuse the public's property and use it to serve the purposes of an individual. True conservatives are as horrified as are true liberals. This company shows us in every way why the rules that prevent ownership of stations in such numbers and by corporations not within the community harm our broadcasting industry and the public's ability to be informed.

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.